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10/549,465	09/14/2005	Junbiao Zhang	PU030083	8383
24498	7590	11/10/2010		
Robert D. Shedd, Patent Operations			EXAMINER	
THOMSON Licensing LLC			ZIA, SYED	
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Princeton, NJ 08543-5312			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/549,465

Applicant(s)

ZHANG ET AL.

Examiner

SYED ZIA

Art Unit

2431

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 02 September 2010.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-27 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-27 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SF 298)
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date: _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
- 6) ☐ Other: _____
- Paper No(s)/Mail Date: _____

DETAILED ACTION

This office action is in response to amendments and remarks filed on September 2, 2009. Claims 1-27 are pending.

Response to Arguments

Applicant's arguments filed on September 2, 2010 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive because of the following reasons:

Regarding Claims 1-27 applicants argued that the *"although Jonker et al discloses access to multiple carrier networks, and the use of IEEE 802.1x protocols as well as cellular technologies nowhere do Jonker et al show or suggest any access by a user terminal to multiple authentication protocols."*

This is not found persuasive. The system of cited prior art teaches a system and method and apparatus for accessing networks by a mobile device. The carrier network uses the user information to authenticate the user and to generate session data while the user is accessing the carrier network. In addition, the access point database includes information about the signal types or protocol used by the carrier network. For example, whether the carrier network uses IEEE 802.11b as opposed to 802.11g as its protocol. The carrier network transmits the session data to the access server. The access client further includes access point detection and evaluation features for use by a user in selecting access points available at a single location. In access client the mobile computing device is operably coupled to a carrier network via a communications link

adapted for communication using a wireless protocol such as IEEE 802.11b. The method cited prior art also involves generating a user selectable list of multiple carrier network identifiers e.g. service set identifier, by an access client using carrier network information, where the identifiers associated with a common carrier network system are aggregated to generate a carrier network system identifier that is included in the list. The information is obtained from an access point database by the client using the identifiers, where the information includes information of whether the access client is authorized to access one of a set of carrier networks (col. 5 line 54 to col.6 line 8, col.9 line 10 to line 35, col. 11 line 1 to col.12 line 7, and col.16 line 35 to col.18 line 40).

Thus the system of cited prior art provides a system and method for controlling access by a mobile terminal to a WLAN by accommodating for each mobile terminal its particular capabilities and selecting accordingly,

Therefore, the examiner asserts that cited prior art does teach or suggest the subject matter recited in independent and dependent claims. Accordingly, rejections for claims 1-27 are respectfully maintained.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 101

Previous rejection under 35 U.S.C. 101 has been withdrawn

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

Claim 1, 4, 10, 14, and 21 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention, such as

Claim 1: selecting an authentication mechanism compatible with the user terminal upon determining the user terminal is not compatible with the predetermined authentication protocol.

It is not clear how this selection mechanism is implemented. Is there a database for finding a corresponding entry of authentication mechanism for each user terminal or a specific authentication mechanism is used all the time for each user terminal, as a default.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

Claims 1-27 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Jonker et al.
(U.S. Patent 7,483,984).

1. Regarding Claim 1 Jonker teach and describe a method for controlling access by a user terminal to a communications network comprising the steps of: receiving from the user terminal a request to access the communications network; transmitting to the user terminal an identity request message; receiving from the user terminal, a response to the identity request message; selecting said predetermined authentication protocol if the user terminal uses said predetermined authentication protocol; and determining whether the user terminal uses the predetermined authentication protocol in response to the response to the identity request message; selecting an authentication mechanism compatible with the user terminal upon determining the user terminal is not compatible with the predetermined authentication protocol, for allowing user terminal access to the communications (col. 5 line 54 to col.6 line 8, col.9 line 10 to line 35, and col. 11 line 1 to col.12 line 7).

2. Regarding Claim 4 Jonker teach and describe method for controlling user terminal access to a wireless local area network, comprising the steps of: receiving from a user terminal a request to access the wireless local area network; transmitting to the mobile terminal an identity request message; receiving from the user terminal, a response to the identity request message; determining whether the user terminal is IEEE 802.1x compliant in response to the response to the identity request message; selecting an authenticating mechanism utilizing IEEE 802. 1x if said user terminal is IEEE 802. 1x compliant; and selecting an authentication mechanism, compatible with the user terminal in response to a determination that the user terminal is not IEEE

802.1x compliant, for allowing user terminal access to the wireless local area network (col. 5 line 54 to col.6 line 8, col.9 line 10 to line 35, and col. 11 line 1 to col.12 line 7).

3. Regarding Claim 10 Jonker teach and describe an access point in communication with user terminal in a wireless local area network, comprising: a means to determine if the terminal device utilizes an IEEE 802.1x protocol; mean for employing the IEEE 802.1x protocol in said access point, if said user terminal utilizes the IEEE 802.1x protocol; and, means for employing an authentication means compatible with the user terminal if the user terminal employs a protocol other than the IEEE 802.1x protocol (col. 5 line 54 to col.6 line 8, col.9 line 10 to line 35, and col. 11 line 1 to col.12 line 7).

4. Regarding Claim 14 Jonker teach and describe a method for controlling access by user terminal in a wireless local area network by determining whether the user terminal utilizes an IEEE 802.1x protocol comprising the steps of: an access point communicating to the user terminal a request to identify, and if the user terminal utilizes the IEEE 802.1x protocol, acknowledging the request to identify, otherwise the access point determining that the user terminal is not IEEE 802.1x compliant and selecting an authentication mechanism compatible with the user terminal (col. 5 line 54 to col.6 line 8, col.9 line 10 to line 35, and col. 11 line 1 to col.12 line 7).

5. Regarding Claim 21 Jonker teach and describe a method for controlling access of a user terminal device in a wireless local area network by determining whether the user terminal utilizes

an IEEE 802.1x protocol comprising the steps of: communicating through the an access point to the mobile terminal a request to identify, and if the user terminal utilizes an IEEE 802.1x protocol, acknowledging the request to identify, otherwise determining by the access point that the user terminal is not IEEE 802.1x compliant and selecting an authentication mechanism compatible with the user terminal (col. 5 line 54 to col.6 line 8, col.9 line 10 to line 35, and col. 11 line 1 to col.12 line 7).

6. Claims 2-3, 5-9, 11-13, 15-20, , and 22-27are rejected applied as above rejecting Claims 1, 4, 10, 14, and 21. Furthermore, Jonker teach and describe a, wherein:

As per Claim 2, communications network comprises a wireless local area network that complies with IEEE 802.11 standards (col. 5 line 54 to col.6 line 8).

As per Claim 3, including selecting an appropriate authentication server coupled to the wireless local area network in response to the determination (.col.4 line 1 to col. 5 line 17).

As per Claim 5, further comprising the steps of, if the user terminal is IEEE 802.1x compliant, transmitting an authentication request to an authentication server and receiving an authentication response utilizing IEEE 802.1x protocol, and controlling user terminal access to the wireless local area network in response to the authentication response (col.4 line 1 to col. 5 line 17, and col. 5 line 54 to col.6 line 8).

As per Claim 6, further comprising the steps of, if the user terminal is not IEEE 802.1x compliant, redirecting an authentication request to an HTTP server for utilizing a browser based authentication protocol (col.4 line 1 to col.5line 17, and col.16 line 35 to col.18 line 40).

As per Claim 7, further comprising the step of configuring a packet filtering module to redirect the authentication request to the HTTP server (col.16 line 35 to col.18 line 40)..

As per Claim 8, further comprising the step of maintaining state information in the wireless local area network for use by the packet filtering module and the HTTP server (col.16 line 35 to col.18 line 40).

As per Claim 9, the state information includes one of a first state indicative of ongoing authentication process, a second state indicative of authentication failure, a third state indicative of authentication success, and a fourth state indicative of a IEEE 802.1x non-complaint user terminal (col.4 line 1 to col. 5 line 17, and col. 5 line 54 to col.6 line 8)

As per Claim 11, wherein the means to determine includes means for communicating to the user terminal a Request-Identity extensible authentication protocol packet and if the user terminal utilizes the IEEE 802.1x protocol the access point receives a Response-Identity extensible authentication protocol packet (col.4 line 1 to col. 5 line 17, and col. 5 line 54 to col.6 line 8)

As per Claim 12, further comprises means to configure an internet protocol packet filtering means to redirect the user terminal request to a local server if the user terminal does not utilize said IEEE.802.1x protocol(col.16 line 35 to col.18 line 40).

As per Claim 13, The access point in claim 10, further comprises means to communicate IEEE 802.1x protocol exchanges and means to establish internet protocol packet filtering through an internet protocol packet filter means and state information to control the user terminal access during and after IEEE 802.1x based authentication process if the access point detects that

the user terminal is IEEE 802.1x protocol complaint (col.4 line 1 to col. 5 line 17, and col. 5 line 54 to col.6 line 8, and col.16 line 35 to col.18 line 40).

As per Claim 15, wherein the access point determines that the user terminal is not IEEE 802.1x compliant when it does not receive an extensible authentication protocol identity response packet after a timeout value (col.4 line 1 to col. 5 line 17, and col. 5 line 54 to col.6 line 8).

As per Claim 16, further comprising the step of the access point detecting that if the user terminal is not IEEE 802.1x compliant, then configuring an internet protocol packet filter and redirecting a user request to a local server (col.4 line 1 to col.5line 17, and col.16 line 35 to col.18 line 40)..

As per Claim 17, further comprising the step of the local server communicating to the user terminal device information specifically related to a browser based authentication protocol(col.16 line 35 to col.18 line 40).

As per Claim 18, further comprising the step of the access point transitioning to a state if the user terminal utilizes the IEEE 802.1x protocol that indicates that the user terminal is IEEE 802.1x compliant and thereafter processing all communication utilizing the IEEE 802.1x protocol (col.4 line 1 to col. 5 line 17, and col. 5 line 54 to col.6 line 8).

As per Claim 19, further comprising the step of the access point transitioning to a state corresponding to browser based authentication protocol if authentication fails (col.16 line 35 to col.18 line 40).

As per Claim 20, further comprising the step of the access point transitioning to a state corresponding to browser based authentication protocol if the user terminal is not IEEE 802.1x compliant (col.4 line 1 to col. 5 line 17, and col. 5 line 54 to col.6 line 8).

As per Claim 22, further comprising the step of determining in the access point that user terminal is not IEEE 802.1x compliant if the user terminal does not receive an extensible authentication protocol identity response packet after a preset time (col.4 line 1 to col. 5 line 17, and col. 5 line 54 to col.6 line 8).

As per Claim 23, further comprising the step of detecting in the access point if the user terminal is not IEEE 802.1x compliant, then configuring an internet protocol packet filter and redirecting a user request to a local server (col.4 line 1 to col.5line 17, and col.16 line 35 to col.18 line 40).

As per Claim 24, further comprising the step of communicating from the local server to the user terminal, information specifically related to a browser based authentication (col.16 line 35 to col.18 line 40).

As per Claim 25, further comprising the step of transitioning to a state in the access point if the terminal device utilizes the IEEE 802.1x protocol that indicates that the user terminal is IEEE 802.1x compliant and thereafter processing all communication utilizing the IEEE 802.1x protocol (col.4 line 1 to col. 5 line 17, and col. 5 line 54 to col.6 line 8).

As per Claim 26, further comprising the step of transitioning to a state in the access point corresponding to browser based authentication protocol if authentication fails (col.16 line 35 to col.18 line 40).

As per Claim 27, further comprising the step of transitioning to a state in the access point corresponding to browser based authentication protocol if the user terminal is not IEEE 802.1x compliant (col.4 line 1 to col. 5 line 17, and col. 5 line 54 to col.6 line 8)

Conclusion

Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to SYED ZIA whose telephone number is (571)272-3798. The examiner can normally be reached on 9:00 to 5:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, William R. Korzuch can be reached on 571-272-7589. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

sz
November 5, 2010
/Syed Zia/
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 2431